



Warren R. Staley
Chairman and
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June 21, 2005

The The Honorable Bill Thomas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Thomas:

Please make the right choice for U.S. agriculture, U.S. consumers, and the citizens of Central America and the Dominican Republic by casting a "YES" vote on CAFTA-DR.

At Cargill, we support open markets as a means of raising living standards both in the United States and overseas. Increased living standards create greater opportunities to carry out our purpose of nourishing people. Comprehensive free trade agreements help to raise people from poverty so that they have the opportunity to purchase high quality, efficiently produced U.S. agricultural and food products.

CAFTA-DR levels the playing field for U.S. agriculture by removing barriers to U.S. agricultural products, which will help the United States to be more competitive against other countries' exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic.

The concerns some are raising over the impact the agreement could have on the sugar industry in the United States, actually disregard the benefits of the agreement to the entire agricultural community, and the overall U.S. economy. The criticism is especially unfair when, in fact, CAFTA-DR is generous to U.S. sugar by affording these countries less than 1% of the entire annual U.S. sugar supply.

My broader concern with the possible failure of CAFTA-DR is the negative message that it will inevitably send across the globe about our country's lack of commitment to trade liberalization. Congressional passage of CAFTA-DR will promote progress for the broader U.S. trade agenda, particularly the Doha Development Agenda negotiations in the WTO, where there is the greatest opportunity to open markets for U.S. goods and services. Progress in the multilateral negotiations depends in significant part on U.S. partnerships with developing countries, such as those that have signed the CAFTA-DR. Failure to approve the CAFTA-DR would send a strong signal that the United States is not willing to commit to trade expansion, even with a relatively small group of developing countries that already have largely open access to the U.S. market.

Again, CAFTA-DR is important to our company, employees, and U.S. agriculture. I strongly urge your support for the passage of CAFTA-DR as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren R. Staley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WRS/db